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Letter written by unknown author, 1856 January 5

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Leamy Hds Jan 5th 1856

A
C626.

A happy new year to you & your
dear I love & many pleasant returns of them. Your
letter reached me only a week ago & I take the
earliest opportunity of replying to it, it came the
last of December & I thought it singular that
the first letter I ever got from you, should reach
me on your birth day, you are now thirteen &
I suppose begin to feel quite like a woman, now
that you have entered on your teens, & it won't
be very long now before you are one. Your uncle
Willie is going up to Asheville, to attend a sale,
& as it is such a good opportunity of sending
my letter I avail myself of it. I wish I
should have waited for a better time, as Calhoun
has just written to his father, but we have to
take chances here whenever we can get them,
they so seldom occur, I meant to have written
you the last time I was on my feet, but was pre-
vented, since then I have not been able to send
a letter, as we have had a great deal of

rain, which has made the river very high, so that frequently it cannot be crossed, there is no bridge. you know we have to cross in a flat boat, we have only got the mail once since we have been here, the office is fifteen miles from us - the high state of the river, & the bad roads, has been the cause of our not going up to Hundston, which we expected to have done long ago, & only intended staying a week over here, but the bad weather has kept us here three weeks, & I don't know when we will get off now, the roads must be in a dreadful state, for it rains here nearly all the time, last night it sleeted all night & this morning the ground & trees were quite covered with it & looked very pretty, but the sun is come out & is melting it, which will make it ~~wet~~ wetter than ever - We are all doing pretty well here at present & are quite comfortably more so than we would have been at Millers. In there we had to go out of doors to get to our room, which was separated from the house, which was very inconvenient when the weather was bad, and it was so often, once it rained & sleeted & snowed one after the other, & I don't think I ever saw such large flakes of snow, but it did not last long, & melted as it fell, we have had very cold

Jan 5, 1856.

H/ 6626.

Mary, but she & Ida were obliged to leave them, as
 cousin Lucatia is going to keep house in Wash-
 ington Georgia. But David has a small house
 there, which he gave Kate, & she has given her
 mother a life interest in it, cousin I send quite
 pleased at the idea of keeping house, & I
 expect she will be happy to have something to
 occupy her, I expect she has left by this, & will
 soon, she is going to take Ida with her, to
 stay with her & go to school in Washington -
 Till sister & Lucia Wendlow were married on
 new years day to Mr Parker - Cousin John &
 gave them a large party on the third, which
 Willie was invited to, I expect they thought we
 had gone up, they did not ask us - Willie
 told us some amusing things of old Mrs Kain,
 among other things he told us when they stayed
 once, he told Calhoun to stay with him while
 he attended to the baggage, but he went off &
 left her by herself & the Phetie, who heard
 what Willie said to Johnny, went up to Mrs Kain,
 & was very attentive to her, offering her his arm
 & everything all the time she was visiting, but
 noticing how commonly she spoke, he said to
 her, "have the honor of speaking to Mrs Cal-
 houn," "no" said Mrs Kain, "I went over to visit
 her sister," which amused us all very much.
 You say your mother says she will write

to your grandmother soon, tell her I understood
her to say she intended writing to me occasionally
as well as your grandmother, tho I did not
expect to hear from her very often, knowing she
has so much to occupy her, but if she does
not intend writing to me at all, perhaps I had
better ~~add up~~ all my letters to you, tho I can
not promise to give so much news in that
case, as you do not know any one in Fred-
ton as she does, & it would be foolish to write
you if people you know nothing about - I was
very glad to hear that Benton was telling it
would have been such a heavy blow to her
mother if she had died, but I suppose it will
be a long time before she gets quite well again.
All join in love to your father mother & self.
Kiss the baby for mother & I - I have not
~~mentioned~~ how young it is, as he has written
himself, he seems to be enjoying himself &
killed a very long ^{of time} long ago - Write soon

Your affectionate aunt
C.B.

P.S. I have been reading a very pretty
book called "Lily" by a lady of Charleston, you
ought to get your mother to buy it for you,
every one is reading it here, & it is quite
liked, you know we saw it in the store, but I
did not know it was so good, or I would have
got it for you -

weather here, & it is very much so. ~~My~~ ^{he} says he did not think we had such cold weather at the south, but he likes our wood fire very much, & is quite delighted with the quantity of fat pine we have here, & wish you had some of it for your fire, the weather must be even more cold with you than with us, which I do not envy you — This is a much better place than we expected to find it, the parlour is as large if not larger than yours, but the house is quite small, mother has been helping you much Willie to put down ^{a perhaps a little} comforts, which is much more comfortable, & when he gets it all fixed up as he intends, it will be very nice. Uncle James has offered him a place over the river, but he does not know if he will take it, I think he ought. You & I had rather live in Carolina than here in Georgia, & besides crossing the river is so inconvenient when it is high — We were glad to hear such good accounts of my little namesake, & hope she will continue to thrive, we were quite amused at her letter, cousin Lucretia ^{was} with us when it came, & she said it was just what she would imagine a baby would say, if it could talk, you will all have to be very careful of her this

and at last, for she does not look as if she could
stand much cold, she is such a delicate looking
little thing, you say you find it very troublesome
holding her so much, as ~~Babette~~ has not time
now, but I should think it would be a good
employment for you, as you have nothing to
occupy you now, you have no books to get & are
not fond of work, & have no books to read. Tell
your mother much James has only built two
new rooms yet, but they are very nice ones, he
talks of building the other part, but I don't know
when he will begin, he is making a new back porch
at present. Tell sister that Cousin Baby is just
like a white one, & is a fine large child. Cousin
Lucretia came to see us while we were at Trill
wood, & brought two of our relations with her, a
young Mr. Harris, related to old Mr. Harris, but he
did not stay long, the other one who came with
cousin L, was Ida Ballou our cousin, not much
older than you, & is a very nice pretty girl, we teased
her very much, at last her father & he came out.
Ida's father cousin Edward & his son were here the
other day, I never saw them before, & liked them
very much. Susan Smith was here also. Cousin
Lucretia came over here with us & staid two or three